GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
IMPORT OF CEMENT
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has permitted the Government of Tamil Nadu to import cement;

(b) if so, the total quantity and the country from which it is to be imported;

(c) whether such import of cement would be strictly in accordance with the standard prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(d) if so, the main features of the BIS guidelines;

(e) if not, the reasons for waiving the standard prescribed by BIS;

(f) whether such exemption of BIS guidelines for import of cement would be made applicable to indigenously manufactured cements and domestic consumers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)to(e): Cement can be imported only from those foreign cement manufacturers who have been granted licenses by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under Foreign Manufacturers' Certification Scheme. Thus imported cement should conform to specified BIS standards and also carry the standard mark of BIS. The Government has given a special dispensation to MMTC Limited, a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation Ltd., to import cement from even those foreign manufacturers, for a maximum period of 150 days, who have applied for BIS license.The imported cement from such manufacturers will not carry the standard mark of BIS but it still should conform to specified standards of BIS. TANCEM has already imported around 7250 tonnes of cement and is further planning to import 0.92 lakh tonnes from Pakistan through MMTC Limited.

(f) & (g): A domestic manufacturer is also granted exemption from the standard mark of BIS for a period of 150 days.